

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Sexton, Mary
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 2:44 PM
To: 'Dave Wanzenried'
Cc: Nowakowski, Sonja; Harrington, Bob (DNRC)
Subject: FW: HB 139 4 projects
Attachments: HB 139 4 Project Cases.doc

Senator Wanzenried,

I'm attaching a short description of four litigated projects on nation forests in Montana where we might have considered intervention. This gives you some examples of where we might be able to be helpful regarding fuels reduction projects.

I hope this answers your question.

Mary

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HB 139

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Georgetown Lake Project - This project was the result of community collaboration that identified 1,740 acres within the Georgetown Lake Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in critical need of reducing hazardous fuel loads around the Georgetown Lake area. This project was also within the state fire suppression jurisdiction.

Helena National Forest

Elliston Face Project - This project is around the community of Helena and is a similar project to the Clancy-Unionville project. It is the result of community collaboration that resulted in identifying 800 acres in critical need of reducing fuel loads due to mountain pine beetle. As in the case of CU, Elliston Face is in the state's fire suppression jurisdiction.

Gallatin National Forest

Smith Creek Vegetation Treatment Project - EA addresses the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of treating up to approximately 810 acres of vegetation by thinning forested areas and up to 300 acres of prescribed burning within the Smith Creek wildland-urban interface (WUI). The analysis area is located in the Crazy Mountains along the northwest corner of the Livingston Ranger District, approximately 35 miles north of Livingston, Montana. The Project Area, located in T5N, R9E, Section 1 & T5N, R10E, Sections 4, 6, & 8, consists of the portions of the Smith Creek WUI (National Forest System Lands) that are in close proximity to residences, other structures, and primary transportation routes. The Park County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP 2006) identified the Smith Creek area as a "WUI area at risk" from wildfires and a priority for fuels reduction projects.

Lewis and Clark National Forest

Newlan Bugs Project - This project was important from a research perspective that the Forest Service proposed to treat 200 acres using different silvicultural prescriptions to study the various techniques in response to insect and disease infestations. This project was strongly supported by the local and the scientific community.